

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

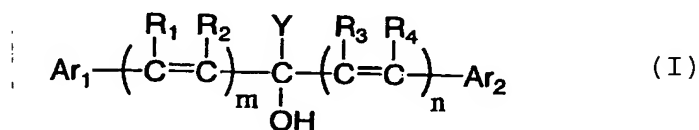
1. An infrared sensitive composition comprising:

(A) an alkali-soluble resin having a phenolic hydroxyl group;

(B) a light-heat converting substance; and

(C) a leucohydroxy dye.

2. The infrared sensitive composition as described in claim 1, wherein the leucohydroxy dye is a compound represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ each may be the same or different and represent an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, which may have a substituent group; R₁ to R₄ each may be the same or different and represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group which may have a substituent; Y represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl groups which may have a substituent; when at least one of Ar₁ and Ar₂, or Y is an aryl group, at least one of Ar₁, Ar₂ and Y has as a substituent a hydroxy group, an amino group, a monoalkylamino group or a dialkylamino group at the ortho or para position; two of Ar₁, Ar₂ and Y may link together through a connecting group to form a ring; m and n each represent 0 or 1.

3. The infrared sensitive composition as described in claim 1, which comprises the alkali-soluble resin (A) in an amount of from 30 to 99 weight percent.

4. The infrared sensitive composition as described in claim 1, which comprises the light-heat converting substance (B) in an amount of from 0.01 to 50 weight percent.

5. The infrared sensitive composition as described in claim 1, which comprises the leucohydroxy dye (C) in an amount of from 0.01 to 15 weight percent.

6. A lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a support and an image-forming layer,

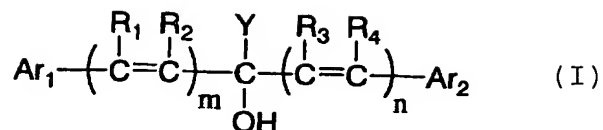
wherein the image-forming layer comprises:

(A) an alkali-soluble resin having a phenolic hydroxyl group;

(B) a light-heat converting substance; and

(C) a leucohydroxy dye.

7. The lithographic printing plate precursor as described in claim 6, wherein the leucohydroxy dye is a compound represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ each may be the same or different and represent an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, which may have a substituent group; R₁ to R₄ each may be the same or different and represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group which may have a substituent; Y represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl groups which may have a substituent; when at least one of Ar₁ and Ar₂, or Y is an aryl group, at least one of Ar₁, Ar₂ and Y has as a substituent a hydroxy group, an amino group, a monoalkylamino group or a dialkylamino group at the ortho or para position; two of Ar₁, Ar₂ and Y may link together through a connecting group to form a ring; m and n each represent 0 or 1.

8. The lithographic printing plate precursor as described in claim 6, wherein the image-forming layer comprises the alkali-soluble resin (A) in an amount of from 30 to 99 weight percent.

9. The lithographic printing plate precursor as described in claim 6, wherein the image-forming layer comprises the light-heat converting substance (B) in an amount of from 0.01 to 50 weight percent.

10. The lithographic printing plate precursor as described in claim 6, wherein the image-forming layer comprises the leucohydroxy dye (C) in an amount of from 0.01 to 15 weight percent.